

# A Distinguished Private Collection of Australian Art

MELBOURNE 25 FEBRUARY – 8 MARCH 2013



NICHOLAS CHEVALIER 1828-1902, LAKE COLAC AND THE WARRION HILLS, FROM CORANGAMORAH 1863

SOTHEBY'S AUSTRALIA is honoured to announce the forthcoming exhibition *A Distinguished Private Collection of Australian Art*, proceeds to benefit the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation, held at Sotheby's Australia's new premises at ANZAC House, 4 Collins Street, Melbourne. Celebrating one of the nation's most significant and historic private collections, this unique exhibition of 94 paintings, watercolours, drawings and prints encompasses a century of Australian identity and artistic endeavour and is revealed to the public for the first time.

Surveying a century from the 1840s to 1940s, the collection features undisputed masterpieces by such luminaries as Penleigh Boyd, Henry Burn, Nicholas Chevalier, Ethel Carrick Fox, E. Phillips Fox, S.T. Gill, Frederick McCubbin, W.C. Piquenit, and Eugene von Guérard. Formed over two successive generations, it is one of the oldest and most comprehensive collections of its kind, reflecting the highly personal and discerning taste of its owners, who were inspired by the greatest collectors of the era.

Two masterpieces in the collection represent pinnacles for both the artist and Australian art of the period. Nicholas Chevalier's *Lake Colac and the Warrion Hills, from Corangamora* 1863 (pictured previous), is a superb example of the great homestead portraits typical of the colonial period. Retaining its original frame, the work meticulously records the owner's home and extensive pastoral holdings and offers a sweeping summation of European settlement of Australia. In contrast, Frederick McCubbin's quiet and impressionistic study, *What the Little Girl Saw in the Bush* 1904, (pictured, right), depicts a young girl spying two winged fairies in a densely wooded glade and portrays the spirit and romance of the Australian bush, which by the first decade of the twentieth century was imbued with fantasy and romance. Of exceptional quality and rarity, both paintings were acquired in the late 1950s and early 1960s and transformed the collection from its modest beginnings to a meaningful collection of national significance.





Several artists, including E. Phillips Fox and Ethel Carrick Fox, have been collected in extraordinary depth. E. Phillips Fox's *Le Père Rivart et sa Grand-fille* 1905-1906 (pictured) portrays a delightful, intimate image of familial devotion with a soft and beautiful sense of light and colour so often seen in French painting of that period. The collection of paintings and works on paper by Penleigh Boyd and W.D. Knox are also remarkable for their breadth and represent one of the most comprehensive holdings of each artist in existence.

Sotheby's Australia Chairman and curator of this exhibition, Geoffrey Smith said 'It is both a personal and professional privilege to be granted full access to this remarkable and historic private collection. The exhibition provides a rare insight into the history and development of a major private collection of Australian art and the catalogue we have published provides a permanent record of its existence and significance. We look forward to welcoming the public for a first, and perhaps last, glimpse of this extraordinary collection.'

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre's Executive Director Cancer Research, Professor Joe Trapani, said the funds raised at the event would play an important role in supporting life-saving cancer research. 'The funds raised through *A Distinguished Private Collection of Australian Art* will help provide our cancer researchers with the specialised tools and state-of-the-art technology needed to discover new and better ways to fight cancer.' Professor Trapani continued 'while our 400 cancer researchers are internationally recognised for their work in advancing the search for cancer cures, they rely on donations from the public to help make their work possible. Fundraising events like *A Distinguished Private Collection of Australian Art* are critical to our continuing success in reducing the impact of cancer on the community.'



Press Release Melbourne

11 February 2013

For Immediate Release

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*A Distinguished Private Collection of Australian Art* will be on view for two weeks from 25 February to 8 March, with proceeds from ticket and catalogue sales to benefit the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation.

#### AT A GLANCE

A DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE COLLECTION OF AUSTRALIAN ART  
Proceeds to benefit Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation

EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE  
MONDAY TO SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY – 8 MARCH 2013, 10AM TO 5PM  
ANZAC HOUSE, LEVEL 4, 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

ENTRANCE FEE \$20 ADULT / \$10 CONCESSION

CATALOGUE \$50 AT THE GALLERY / \$60 POSTAGE WITHIN AUSTRALIA

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**For high resolution images, further information or to arrange an interview with Geoffrey Smith, Chairman, please contact John Keats.**

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